

Town of Lunenburg

Finance Committee:

Brian Laffond, Chairman
Marilyn Stokes, Vice-Chairman
John Male
Barbara Reynolds
Martha McDonald, Secretary
Mark Erickson
Mike Mackin



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MAR 25 2011

**LUNENBURG TOWN
CLERK OFFICE**

Lunenburg Finance Committee Minutes March 3, 2011

Location: Town Hall
Present: Marilyn Stokes, Mark Erickson, Brian Laffond, Martha McDonald (departed early), Barbara Reynolds (arrived late), Mike Mackin, John Male

- 1) Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 7:06 PM
- 2) Public Discussion – None
- 3) Review Minutes of 2/17/11 meeting. MS motioned to approve; MMcD seconded; vote unanimous
- 4) New Communications - None
- 5) Committee Reports
 - Capital Planning – None
 - DPW – None
 - Public Safety – None
 - Service Level Team – None
 - Sewer Commission – None
 - School Committee – MM reported on the school committee meeting from the night before. Various ways to make budget cuts to eliminate the gap between the superintendent's recommendation and that of the Town Manager were discussed, along with the possibility of an override. No decisions were reached.
 - School Regionalization – None
- 6) Appointments – Preliminary Budget Discussions
 - 7:10 Library Director - Amy Sadkin Ms. Sadkin presented the recommended library budget and mentioned it had been posted to the town website. ME asked about the impact of the delta from the Town Managers recommendation: it amounts to 4 hours per week. MM asked for clarification of CWMars which was provided. MS asked to consider a switch of opening on Friday for being closed on Monday. Ms. Sadkin responded Monday is a heavy homework night where Friday is not. BL asked commented about the popularity of the Kindle program and that the Town Manager's recommendation meets state grant commitments.
 - 7:25 Board of Health - George Emond Mr. Emond reported that the DOH budget is flat at 1 FTE, with small increase in budget to meet contract commitments.
 - 10 minute recess
 - 7:40 Sewer Commission - Bob Ebersole Mr. Ebersole reported a flat budget, with no increase in fees. Revenues will increase slightly from usage increases and new connections. ME asked about the \$85k draw from retained earnings: it compares with \$92k last year and we have a balance of \$617k. Infiltration and inflow may be charged in the future and is a concern. Some engineering money this year to investigate. MM asked when Fitchburg and Leominster might change how they charge. Mr. Ebersole said he didn't know. They could change now, but may not change if we show effort to mitigate and correct I&I. JM pointed out we did not have copies and Mr. Ebersole said he would provide them. BL asked about headcount: there is no FTE, but there is some use of overtime. BL commented on the low connect fee of \$300 and suggested we could look to increase it.

Approved 3/24/11 B.P.L.

- 7:52 Police Chief – Daniel Bourgeois Chief Bourgeois said his #1 issue is staffing (plus 1 patrol officer) and to restore lost grants for things like community policing. JM commented that an FTE is not just \$63,512 in salary, but also carries health insurance, retirement benefits and additional automobile expense. Chief responded that public employees are not eligible for SS, so pension is needed. And 1 additional officer is not even close to what is needed. ME asked about non-officer related increases: community policing, on-call investigator, military assignments. MM asked about retirements: 5 eligible in 5 years, although none yet have definite plans. Chief pointed out use of auxiliary police is way down due to Whalom Park and Tri Town closing and fewer private paid details. He said the new officer would be a split shift opposite the split shift traffic officer. MS asked about closing the difference from Town Manager's recommendation: it's still being worked.
- 8:45 Fire Chief – Scott Glenny Chief Glenny talked about the big difference between his recommendation and that of Town Manager: currently no staffing on the weekends or after 6:00 PM weekly. JM asked about the EMT Recertification: it is combined on two lines, the stipend and the fee being separate. Recommendation is 2 people in the station overnight and weekends(per diem, not benefit eligible), both EMT and Fire certified so that appropriate first response could be provided. JM commented on the great response time. MS commented she had a fire and appreciates the need for good response. BL asked about a substation: not practical for numerous reasons.

7) Next Meetings

- March 10 – additional department reports
- March 17 – Public Hearing
- March 24 – tentative; may not have a quorum
- March 31 – tentative; review warrant articles

8) Adjournment – MM made motion to adjourn at 9:28 PM and MS seconded; vote unanimous

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Erickson

3/24/14
B.P.L.